



faxed to CC 12/7/7 sa

California State Senate

ABEL MALDONADO

FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

December 7, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I understand that the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) has applied for a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to protect Blair Ranch, an 868-acre cattle ranch near Morgan Hill, which is near my district in Santa Clara County.

The \$4.34 million grant will ensure permanent protection of the nearly 6,000 acres of existing parks and open space in the region as well as provide home to the different wildlife species in the area, such as the California Tiger Salamander, California Red-Legged Frog, and many others. In addition, the protection of this property sets a precedent for future parks projects in this region and supports the conservation objectives of multiple agencies.

I would appreciate your support on this matter. Please direct your response to me at my San Jose District Office.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Maldonado".

ABEL MALDONADO
Senator, 15th District

AM:db

cc: Jeff Melby, Project Manager, California Coastal Conservancy

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0027
(916) 319-2027
FAX (916) 319-2127

DISTRICT OFFICES
701 OCEAN STREET,
SUITE 318B
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 425-1503
FAX: (831) 425-2570

99 PACIFIC STREET
SUITE 555-D
MONTEREY, CA 93940
(831) 649-2832
(408) 782-0647
FAX: (831) 649-2935

Assembly
California Legislature

JOHN LAIRD
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
Chair, BUDGET
JUDICIARY
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES

December 10, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Peninsula Open Space Trust's (POST) grant request to the Coastal Conservancy to protect Blair Ranch, an important landscape in the western Santa Clara hillsides.

Blair Ranch, an 868-acre cattle ranch near Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County, provides an important connection to nearly 6,000 acres of existing parks in the region. With a direct transfer of the land to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (SCCOSA), POST and the Coastal Conservancy will facilitate the permanent protection of this beautiful and ecologically unique landscape and will ensure its availability for public use and recreation.

I believe the protection of Blair Ranch will have beneficial effects for the entire South Bay. It will provide potential trail linkages with existing open spaces while also setting an important precedent for land conservation in an area that is facing significant development pressures. This cornerstone property will also expand a regional park system that preserves the disappearing wildlife habitat and landscape of the South Bay as well as support the conservation objectives of multiple state agencies.

For these reasons, I encourage you to approve POST's funding request to protect Blair Ranch.

Sincerely,



JOHN LAIRD, Assemblymember
27th District

JL:cf

cc: Jeff Melby, Project Manager, California Coastal Conservancy

County of Santa Clara

Parks and Recreation Department

298 Garden Hill Drive
Los Gatos, California 95032-7669
(408) 355-2200 FAX 355-2290
Reservations (408) 355-2201
www.parkhere.org



November 26, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Blair Property, Santa Clara County

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, I am writing to support the proposal by the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) for a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to protect Blair Ranch, an important landscape in the western Santa Clara hillsides.

Blair Ranch, an 868-acre cattle ranch near Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County, provides an important connection to already nearly 6,000 acres of existing parks in a region that is increasingly under pressure of development. With a direct transfer of the land to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (SCCOSA), POST and the Coastal Conservancy will facilitate the permanent protection of this beautiful and ecologically unique landscape and will ensure its availability for public use and recreation.

Looking at the future of open space south of San Jose, it is clear that Blair Ranch is part of a vision of protected open space that will have dramatic and beneficial effects for the entire South Bay. By providing potential trail linkages with already existing open spaces, Blair Ranch augments existing parks while also setting a precedent for land conservation in an area increasingly threatened by development. The protection of this cornerstone property will expand a regional park system that preserves the disappearing wildlife habitat and landscape of the South Bay. In addition, the protection of this property sets a precedent for future parks projects in this region and supports the conservation objectives of multiple agencies.

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**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**



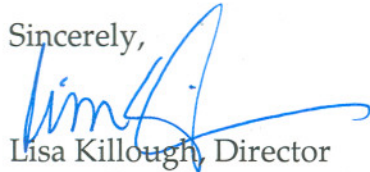
Board of Supervisors: Donald F. Gage, Blanca Alvarado, Pete McHugh, Ken Yeager, Liz Kniss
County Executive: Peter Kutas Jr.



Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

With it's rolling hills, oak woodlands, and unique geology, Blair Ranch is emblematic of a rural Californian landscape and its diverse ecology. We urge your support of this important land conservation accomplishment and encourage you to approve POST's proposal to protect Blair Ranch.

Sincerely,



Lisa Killough, Director
Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department

cc: Jeff Melby, Project Manager, California Coastal Conservancy
Audrey Rust, President, POST

November 27, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

Re: Blair Property, Santa Clara County

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, I am writing to support the proposal by the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) for a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to protect Blair Ranch that is located near Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County.

This region is increasingly under pressure of development. A direct transfer of the land to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (SCCOSA), POST and the Coastal Conservancy will facilitate the permanent protection of this beautiful and ecologically unique landscape. Protecting Blair Ranch is part of a long-range vision to secure open space that will have dramatic and beneficial effects for the entire South Bay.

This land is vital to the community as it provides an important connection to already nearly 6,000 acres of existing parks. By providing potential trail linkages with already existing open spaces, Blair Ranch augments existing parks while also setting a precedent for land conservation in an area increasingly threatened by development. The protection of this cornerstone property will expand a regional park system that preserves the disappearing wildlife habitat and landscape of the South Bay. Furthermore, the protection of this property opens the way for future parks projects in this region and supports the conservation objectives of multiple agencies.

With its rolling hills, oak woodlands and unique geology, Blair Ranch is emblematic of a rural Californian landscape and its diverse ecology. I urge you to support this important land conservation accomplishment and encourage you to approve POST's proposal to protect Blair Ranch.

Sincerely,


L. Craig Britton
General Manager
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94042

cc: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors
Jeff Melby, Project Manager, California Coastal Conservancy

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



201 Mission Street 4th Floor
San Francisco, California 94105

Tel (415) 777-0487
Fax (415) 777-0244

nature.org

November 30, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Blair Property, Santa Clara County

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), I am writing to support the proposal by the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) for a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to protect Blair Ranch. Blair Ranch is an ecologically significant property in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, which have been identified by TNC as an important conservation area for protecting the unique biodiversity of California's Central Coast.

Blair Ranch, an 868-acre cattle ranch near Morgan Hill in western Santa Clara County, is emblematic of a rural Californian landscape and its diverse ecology. The property supports significant natural communities including blue and valley oak woodlands, as well as serpentine grasslands, habitat for a number of rare, endemic wildflower species.

In addition, Blair Ranch provides an important connection to an existing network of parks comprising nearly 6,000 acres in a region that is increasingly under pressure of development. With a direct transfer of the land to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (SCCOSA), POST and the Coastal Conservancy will facilitate the permanent protection of this beautiful and ecologically unique landscape. In addition, the protection of Blair Ranch sets a precedent for future parks projects in this region and supports the conservation objectives of multiple agencies.

We urge your support of this important land conservation accomplishment and encourage you to approve POST's proposal to protect Blair Ranch.

Sincerely,


Wendy Millet
Associate State Director, California Program

cc: Jeff Melby, Project Manager, California Coastal Conservancy



STEERING COMMITTEE

STEVE ABBORS
East Bay Municipal Utility District
CRAIG ANDERSON
LandPaths
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Save the Redwoods League
TIMOTHY BARRY
Livermore Area Recreation and Park District
TINA BATT
Muir Heritage Land Trust
RALPH BENSON
Sonoma Land Trust
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Marin Agricultural Land Trust
GREG BETTS
City of Palo Alto
CRAIG BRITTON
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
CRAIG BRONZAN
City of Brentwood
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Tri-Valley Conservancy
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County of Sonoma
RICH BURNS
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
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City of San Mateo
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City of Concord
DAN CATHER
City of Walnut Creek
JOE CIOLEK
Agricultural Trust of Contra Costa County
PATRICK CONGDON
Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
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East Bay Regional Park District
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Silicon Valley Land Conservancy
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Solano Land Trust
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California State Parks Foundation
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California State Coastal Conservancy
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Land Trust of Napa County
DAVID HOLLAND
County of San Mateo
BETH HUNING
San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
LISA KILLOUGH
County of Santa Clara
MICHAEL LA GUARDIA
Half Moon Bay Open Space Trust
KATHRYN LYDDAN
Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust
ANDREA MACKENZIE
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and
Open Space District
SHARON McNAMEE
Marin County Open Space District
CHRIS POWELL
U.S. National Park Service
KERRY JO RICKETTS-FERRIS
City of Oakland
AUDREY RUST
Peninsula Open Space Trust
BARBARA SALZMAN
Marin Audubon Society
JOHN SKEEL
City of San Ramon
FRED SMITH
City of Brisbane
MIKE STALLINGS
City of Daly City
BRIAN STEEN
Sempervirens Fund
TOM STEINBACH
Greenbelt Alliance
KAREN SWEET
Alameda County Resource Conservation District
TERRI THOMAS
The Presidio Trust
LAURA THOMPSON
San Francisco Bay Trail Project
LLOYD WAGSTAFF
The Nature Conservancy
TIM WIRTH
Trust for Public Land
JOHN WOODBURY
County of Napa
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

November 20, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Blair Property, Santa Clara County

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Bay Area Open Space Council, I am writing to support the proposal by the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) for a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to protect Blair Ranch, an important landscape in the western Santa Clara hillsides.

Blair Ranch, an 868-acre cattle ranch near Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County, provides an important connection to already nearly 6,000 acres of existing parks in a region that is increasingly under pressure of development. With a direct transfer of the land to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (SCCOSA), POST and the Coastal Conservancy will facilitate the permanent protection of this beautiful and ecologically unique landscape and will ensure its availability for public use and recreation.

Blair Ranch is part of a vision of protected open space that will have dramatic and beneficial effects for the entire South Bay. By providing potential trail linkages with already existing open spaces, Blair Ranch augments existing parks while also setting a precedent for land conservation in an area increasingly threatened by development. The protection of this cornerstone property will expand a regional park system that preserves the disappearing wildlife habitat and landscape of the South Bay. In addition, the protection of this property sets a precedent for future parks projects in this region and supports the conservation objectives of numerous agencies.

We urge your support of this important land conservation accomplishment and encourage you to approve POST's proposal to protect Blair Ranch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bettina K. Ring".

Bettina K. Ring
Executive Director
Bay Area Open Space Council

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

BAY AREA OPEN SPACE COUNCIL

Bettina Ring, Executive Director

171 Crescent Road, San Anselmo, CA 94960 • phone & fax: 415-460-1540
bettina@openspacecouncil.org • www.openspacecouncil.org



December 7, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Blair Property, Santa Clara County

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of Greenbelt Alliance, I am writing to support the proposal by the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) for a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to protect Blair Ranch, an important landscape in the western Santa Clara hillsides.

Blair Ranch, an 868-acre cattle ranch near Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County, provides an important connection to nearly 6,000 acres of existing parks in a region that is increasingly under pressure of development. With a direct transfer of the land to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (SCCOSA), POST and the Coastal Conservancy will facilitate the permanent protection of this beautiful and ecologically unique landscape and will ensure its availability for public use and recreation.

Looking at the future of open space south of San Jose, it is clear that Blair Ranch is part of a vision of protected open space that will have dramatic and beneficial effects for the entire South Bay. As the region learns to deal with a growing population, Greenbelt Alliance will continue to promote infill developments near transit. Protecting valuable open space will offer residents a nearby opportunity to escape into and appreciate untouched nature. These lands also play an important role in water quality and help preserve the disappearing wildlife habitat and landscape of the South Bay.

With its rolling hills, oak woodlands, and unique geology, Blair Ranch is emblematic of a rural Californian landscape and its diverse ecology. We urge your support of this important land conservation accomplishment and encourage you to approve POST's proposal to protect Blair Ranch.

Sincerely,

South Bay Field Representative

cc: Jeff Melby, Project Manager, California Coastal Conservancy